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10-13-1956

1959-10-13, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1959-10-13

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Tuesday
12 October 59
4 PM

Dear Mom and Elmer,

I'm sorry to write on the back of Dad's letter but I'm sitting in Ray's car on the edge of the parking ramp by our largest maintenance hangar. Ray is inside watching some particular work on his plane (the one he's been struggling to get ready to go to France.)

He flew it yesterday 2 times without mishap except that the air conditioning worked too well and when he got down his feet were almost frozen inside this big heavy flying boats.

Today he flew it again, taking her all the way to 50,100 feet and she purred like a kitten until he came in for a landing; then all broke loose and nearly every system failed on him. He got it down beautifully while the crash ambulances and fire trucks screamed out to the runway to pick up the pieces if he wasn't successful. So now it may be a bit longer yet before he flies it again.

I just got off duty - class day again with my Red Cross Volunteer Nurse's aide. It went much more smoothly today and I hope tomorrow will be even better - it's the baby bath day

-2-

Ray is coming now so maybe I can finish this on clean paper.

I was wrong. He only came to talk while they called the plane out in front of the hangar. He is back out there with them now while they run it through a series of checks. It's all Greek to me, but I love to watch and listen anyway. I spend $\frac{1}{2}$ my time waiting on the ground for him, but if I'm working and he's off, he's waiting at the door when I come off the ward, so it evens out!

I got your letter from Cincinnati. As usual, you stayed a little too long and the newness of the little monsters wore off. Aren't you glad your two are very nearly off your hands? I don't recall that I ever gave you lots of headaches when I was little - except diaper - but, of course, your headaches with me came at a later date - so relax and let Helen get grey over her three - if she spoils them, she will be the one who reaps the results - however, sister & Jay both are pretty smart folks, so they'll probably see the error of their ways soon.

I'm glad you're going to light in one place for a while too.

Don't spend any money on me
at Christmas - You can tell Helen
I don't need anything except
pajamas or slippers - we can
buy much over here - and
other than that, just save your
money and Ray and I will eat
it for you when we get there -
real steak, real chicken and
green vegetables & fruit. That
we don't have to soak in
calorax and real milk and
lettuce & celery!

Ray is beginning to get
excited about coming to
visit. He hasn't seen the USA
in over 2 years - so we will
have to let him look about
in Tennessee. I gave him
his Christmas early - a new
set of golf clubs; or I could
have his set to learn on -
and he already plans for
us to take our clubs with
us - even if we've nothing to
wear - so be prepared.

He's coming now to go, so
he close

Love, Dave Litch
Betty